

THE
REMARKABLE
Affecting Case
AND a 5900
DYING WORDS
OF

Mr. *Archibald Oswald,*

AN

Ensign in the Young Pretender's Service;

Who received

Three Musquet-Shot in his Left Thigh, in the
Engagement of PRESTON-PANS, and ex-
pired Six Days after of his Wounds.

Published at his Dying Request,
By the Rev. Mr. JOHN DRUMMOND,
of Bellzie-Hills, who attended the unfortunate
Gentleman in his last Hours.

L O N D O N:

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[Price Sixpence.]

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THE
Affecting Case

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Mr. *Archibald Oswald*, &c.



HE 26th of *September*, 1745, I received a Messenger from my very good Friend Mr. *James Douglas*, of *Drumblandric*, Resident at the *Cuttle-Pans*; requiring me to speed with all Diligence to his Dwelling ; there to minister spiritual Comfort and Assistance to a Gentleman of his Acquaintance, who lay dying at his *House* ; in which the Rebels had suffered the said Mr. *Douglas* to dwell, unmolested, upon account of his Friendship and Relation to the said sick Person, who was unfortunately engaged in their Party: Albeit,

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the said Mr. *Douglas* in no wise aided, abetted, or countenanced their traiterous Purposes, and would have removed at their first Approach, but for the Sickness of his dearly beloved Wife, the Daughter of *Peter Oswald*, Esq; who was then lying-in, and very unfit to be moved in her Condition: Accordingly I resorted to Mr. *Douglas's* at the *Cuttle-Pans*, on the first Summons, not without some Danger of my Life from the straggling Parties of these lawless Rebels, moroding up and down, between *Edinburgh* and the *Pans*, some of whom examined me very roughly, and would not let me pass, till they were satisfied I was sent for to attend an Officer of their own Party: And one Russian, particularly, snatch'd my Handkerchief and my Mull out of my Hand,

When I arrived at the House of my Friend, I was immediately led by him into the Room of the Gentleman, who is the Subject of this Narration, Mr. *Archibald Oswald*, who then lay in Bed, given up by the Surgeon, who had acquainted his Patient that he had done all he could for him, and that he was no longer a Man for this World. Which, as I was informed, Mr. *Oswald* heard with great Constancy, although he appeared much troubled inwardly, and had desired a Minister of the Gospel

Gospel might be sent for, with whom he might confer on the State of his Soul, and receive such spiritual Helps as he stood in need of, in his melancholic Condition.

When I entered the Room, he lay groaning, and seemed in great Pain, both of Body and of Mind; but as I drew nearer, his Countenance grew more composed, and taking me by the Hand, desired me to sit down by his Bed-side, as close to him as possible, (his Voice being low and faint.) I had not seen him for sixteen Years before, and yet he recollected me well; but in truth he was so much changed by his Disorder, that with much ado I remembered his Features. I told him I was very sorry to see him in that Condition, and yet more so for the Occasion that had brought him to it; and which could be little expected of a Member of so worthy and loyal a Family, as well as of a Church, which had suffered so much under the bloody Persecution of those, whose Cause he was then abetting and supporting. At this, Mr. *Oswald* gave a deep Sigh, and said, That he hoped the Pains and Agonies he was even now suffering in this World, and the Confusion he was under from seeing a Person of my Function, whom he had once been acquainted with, and of Principles so opposite to those of

the Party he had madly and unadvisedly engaged with, would atone for his deep-repent-ed Folly and Sin, in the Course he had taken : — That he had sent for me on purpose to make me the Depository of his last Sentiments, and Contrition for his grievous Offence : — That he thanked God that it had pleased him, of his own rich and sovereign Grace, to grant him a Space of Life to see the Snare he had been led into, and to sue to his Divine Goodness for Mercy and Forgiveness therefore: Then he cry'd out, Oh! the Bitterness of dying in Rebellion against my lawful King, and against the God of my Ancestors!

At these Words, the Sense of his Misguidance affected him so deeply, that he fainted away, and, on my calling out for Assistance, the Servants came in, and he was with much Difficulty brought to himself again. I found it was no Time to urge to his afflicted Soul too strongly the Horrors of the Step he had taken, since he appeared so pathetically a Self-convict; and in good truth, so hearty a Show of Repentance saw I yet never in any Man: Oh! (would he often exclaim, with Sighs that broke from the innermost Recesses of his Heart) What is the wicked Work I have been setting my Hand to help forward! A Work of

of two-edged Ruin ! For how many Lives must be forfeited to the just Resentment of an incensed, however merciful and benign Prince, if my too late abhorred Fellow Rebels should, as I trust in God they will, nay, MUST fail in their rash and illegal Enterprize !

This is on one hand a terrible Evil in the Eye of Humanity, though a necessary one in that of Justice. But, on the other hand, how much more deplorable would be the Condition of this great Realm, if (which Heaven avert !) they were to meet with Success, and after shedding Seas of Blood, be thereby enabled with an armed Force to set a banish'd Outlaw, a *Popish* Prince or *Pretender*, on a Throne, incapable of being filled but by a *Protestant* ; and who would think himself bound by a Priest-ridden Conscience to restore, at all risques, that Religion, or rather that idolatrous Superstition, which, with so much Wisdom, so many hazardous Undertakings, and so many visible Marks of celestial Providence, has been happily drove from among us, and I wish I could say rooted out of the Land to the last Weed of it ? A Religion, which patronizes Cruelty, Idolatry, Perfidy, Murder, Treason, and Rebellion, with every Crime destructive to Society ; a Religion, which would wrest the Authority from the
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Almighty himself, and assumes the Power of Forgiveness of Sins; and what is yet more detestable, yet not more detestable than true, a Licence to commit them: A Religion, against the Abominations of which, so many Saints and Martyrs have borne Witness, and sealed their Protestation with their Blood.

Oh! how could I, who knew all this, be seduced by mere worldly Prospects, and those too, mad and desperate ones, to renounce my Allegiance, and take up the Sword against the Laws of my dear Country? Oh! why have I, who once knew the Truth, forsaken my God? That God, who cried out to the Children of *Ephraim* by his Prophet of old, *Woe also to them when I depart from them.* What can that Man expect, who, against the Conviction of his Conscience, forsakes his God, but Anguish and Distress, Misery and Desolation! And thus am I forsaken by him, and left to the Bitterness of Remorse and Repentance: Oh! may it not be too late, for my Rashness and Folly!

Here the poor Gentleman broke off, but groaned vehemently, and to all Judgment, appeared infinitely more grieved and wounded in Spirit, than in Body.

I did not fail to mingle Lamentations with him for his sorrowful Case, and to use such Exhortations to Endurance and Comfort, as might recall him to Hopes of Salvation, on his steady and sincere Repentance for the enormous Sin he had committed, and for which it had pleased God to cut him off in the Flower of his Days, yet with so much Mercy, as not only to afford him Time for a Reconciliation with him, but also, gave him Grace and Sense to open his Eyes on the Horrors of the Precipice he had been driving headlong down; whilst most of his Associates in this horrid unnatural Rebellion, were at that instant revelling and blinded with their having overpowered a very small Part of his Majesty's Forces, whose Defeat too was plainly owing to the Contempt it was natural to have for a Band of Outlaws, or hot-headed Adventurers; and the Measure of whose Guilt was only the more aggravated by this Glimpse of Fortune, and consequently their inevitable Punishment become less attended with Pity, whilst the Blood of those who fell in the Defence of their King, their Country, and Religion, would cry out effectually for Justice and Revenge.

I observed to him how contrary not only to
his

his Duty, as a Subject of the State, and a Member of our holy Kirk, his Proceeding had been, but also to all Judgment and Human Policy: Since, where was the remotest Probability of succeeding, by the Aid of a Handful of wild, ignorant, poor *Highlanders*, against the Forces of the Nation united firmly in the Defence of all that is valuable amongst Men, their Laws, their Liberties, their Properties, and their Religion, under the Protection of a lawful Sovereign, called by the Choice of a free People, to be the Guardian of all that Subjects can wish for, or enjoy? A Prince, possess'd of all the Royal and Human Virtues, that any Nation could wish to see united in a Governor; who has given his People all the Proof that could arise from a long Experience, that no Weight of Power, nor even Provocation from factious Oppositions, could corrupt the Equity of his Government, or tempt him to do any thing arbitrary or unjust; and who, throughout the whole Course of his Reign, has made the Laws of the Kingdom the invariable, inflexible Rule of his Government; who is a *Minister of God to his People for Good, a Terror only to the evil Doers, but a gracious Protector to all that fulfil their Duty and Allegiance*; and continually promotes the Prosperity and Happiness of his People: Whose known
 Wisdom,

Wisdom, Justice and Steadiness placed him at the Head of Affairs Abroad; and upon whom the Eyes of all good Men are earnestly fixed, daily waiting for the happy Effect of his prudent Councils, and Endeavours to support the *Protestant* Interest, to redress the Grievances of it's Professors, and to restore the Peace and Tranquility of *Europe*, throughout which, his precious Life and Security are justly considered as the common Cause of all *Protestants*, and true Lovers of Liberty.

And whilst so many princely Virtues, and the Affection he has always express'd for our Constitution both in Church and State, leave us no room to doubt of our *future* Felicity; especially when our Prospect is enlarged to the utmost Extent of our View, by our being bless'd with an August Prince, and his numerous Issue, formed under our Eyes upon the same excellent Models for the Support of our Religion and Liberties in future Generations.

What Madness then must it be to presume that a Nation would exchange such try'd and approv'd Certainties, for all the Professions and Promises of a Pretender, nursed up in a Faith which abrogates all regard to the most
sacred

sacred ones, when made to those their Superstition teaches them to call *Heretics*; as if any Heresy could be so flagitious as their own; and a Pretender's Son, who has not only sucked in their false and bloody Tenets with his Milk, but has had them strengthened by his Education, in that sink of Abomination and Treachery, the Court of modern *Rome*, that standing Mint of Treasons, Perjuries, and Assassinations of Princes; by whose Instigation and Avowal the blackest Murders have been committed *in the Name of God*, and the bloodiest Massacres received their Sanction.

Such Sir, said I, is the Cause you have been embarked in; nor do I mention it with Bitterness of Reproach, but to confirm and strengthen you in those happy and edifying Sentiments of Contrition, and Repentance which assure Salvation to the greatest Sinners by the Blood and Merit of our Saviour; as well as to minister just Consolation to you for being by *any* means disjoined from the Councils, and Fellowship of such Tools and Madmen. 'Tis a righteous thing that *He that walks with wise Men should be wise, and that the Companion of Fools should be destroyed.*

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Here the dying Penitent interrupted me, and with a most affecting Tone assured me of his perfect Conviction, and unalterable Sense of his Guilt, which he said could only be match'd by the Folly of it.—That though he had done with the World, he could not help wishing that some of his Comrades especially (*Here he named them*) could by any Means be retrieved from the fatal Association they had been, like himself, unadvisedly entangled in, and brought to a due Sense of the Wisdom, and Expedience of *flying from a Wrath to come.*

He heartily prayed that they might, before it was too late, be undeceiv'd of their Affiance in a rotten Reed, and know their Case and *Danger*, that there was but one Step between them and Death.—That there was no tarrying.—That the Delays of a single Hour might be fatal.—That in short they might return to the sole Paths of Safety, Interest, and Duty ; and that there was but one Way to escape the *Avenger of Blood*, and of Treason : But alas ! said he, I fear they are too much dazzled with their short-lived Triumph, their trifling Advantage over their Loyal Fellow Citizens, to hearken to the Whispers of Duty and Allegiance.

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But oh, good Sir, if you think any thing in my Case can be of Instruction or Example, I beg you to make my Repentance and Sorrow as diffusive a Good as you can, and from my sad Experience recommend to others a Return in Time to their Duty; or to those that are not fallen, an unshaken Perseverance, and Attachment to the Constitution of their Country: Your Testimony, he was pleased to add, may have a proper Weight, as you are a Minister of the Gospel, and above abusing the Confidence of a dying Man to any Party-Ends.

This Request indeed he repeated with a peculiar Pathos, squeezing my Hand, and seemed to take great Comfort in my assuring him, that I would not, on any Account, fail of doing him the Justice he desired; and that I was much edified at seeing him so earnest for making his End convey a salutary Instruction and Atonement for the accumulated Crimes which brought him to it.

He often asked me with great Eagerness if I thought his Case was not of too deep a Dye to be obliterated by a Death-bed Repentance; but then he would catch himself again, and cry out, that it was injurious to the infinite Mercy of God to despair of it;—that there
could

could be no Stain so black but that the Blood of our Saviour would fetch out upon a due Confidence in the Merits of it, as our Holy Faith teaches us to believe, in Opposition to that Church, which only sets up her own *self-sufficient* Merits, and which always appears in the Attire of an Harlot, *whose Filthiness is in her Skirts*, and has no better Antiquity than being *old in Adulteries*.

Thus did this Soul-sick Penitent, by the especial Grace of God, receive inward Comforts and Cherishment from the Lights of Reason and Faith, powerfully operating in him, against the Suggestions of the evil Spirit, under the Colours of Despair. All who were present besides myself were much edified by his pious Breathings, and heavenly Aspirations.

It was indeed a very refreshing Thing to see him in so Christian, composed, and resigned a Frame, that my Exhortations, and Pastoral Function, seemed to be sown in a most fertile Ground, that promised the richest Harvest: He had indeed no Raptures or Extasies, but an humble, thorough, steady Trust, and a comfortable Hope through *reviving* Grace; and this was my Business to maintain and cherish as one of the best and
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most specific Cordials in the World; and all that were about him, as his last Minutes drew near, will readily bear Witness that this Hope of *accepted* Repentance for his Crime did not a little refresh him under his fainting Pains, and Pangs of Nature on the Point of Diffolution, and as he lay on his dying Bed.

Nay, so far had this Way of thinking rais'd and elated his Spirits, and given his Mind, now returned to Innocence, a more chearful Turn and Composure, that his Body seemed to have gained likewise Benefit from it, and gave us Hopes of his Recovery; though it pleased God to dispose of him otherwise, to whose Will, it is fit we should all be resigned: But of one Circumstance I am bound to give my Testimony, that the dying Party always express'd a greater Desire of dying than living, by Way of Atonement for his Guilt; unless, said he, I might live to repair, by some signal Service, the Offence I have committed against my King and Country, that so my Fault might be practically, as well as speculatively purged, and done away.

The poor Gentleman continued in this wholesome Disposition of his Mind, when with the Surgeon's Leave, after having properly prepared him, his Wife, and only Son, a Youth

a Youth aged about fourteen Years, were introduced to his Bedside; when never did my Eyes behold a more moving and affecting Interview, all the Particulars of which it would be from my Purpose to recite here.

But often did he, addressing himself to his disconsolate Lady, and bathing her Hand, which he kept fast lock'd in his, with his Tears, beseech her Pardon for the Distress, Affliction, and Disgrace he had brought upon her, by his unadvised fatal Step; telling her pathetically, that even this violent Way of coming to his End, was probably a lucky Prevention of his doing it in a few Days more in the Quality of a State-Criminal, and a Spectacle to the People in a public Execution, which could hardly escape being the Reward of those giddy, rash Fools, in Arms against their King, and an united Country; since their Party hardly deserved the Name of a Division from the great Body of the three Kingdoms, whom such a contemptible Band, both for Quality and Numbers, must soon give Way to; and consequently feel the Rigour of the Laws they had themselves provoked, and sharpened the Edge of.

Observing that this mournful Dialogue was running into great Lengths, and by the vio-

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lent Emotions it caused, interfered too much with his Preparations for the approaching Instant of Dissolution, which they also hastened ; I ventured to remind the dying Party of the Expedience of taking leave of his Family, and of all Attachment to the Things of this vain, transient World, in order to give himself wholly up to the Task of Penitence, and Reconciliation with the only Power it was now his sacred Interest to be well with.—
Mr. Oswald, with great Resignation, thanked me for this kind and timely Warning ; then, lifting himself up, as much as his Strength would allow him, seemed to gather all his Spirits to a Point, and with a Voice more audible and clear than we had before heard, delivered himself to his Wife and Child in the following Terms, as near as I could remember to minute them down, the Instant I left the Room.

“ Dear *Kirstie*, you see the fatal Necessity
 “ of our Separation ; which as it must some-
 “ time have happened in the Course of Na-
 “ ture, so on the Occasion of this violent
 “ Way of it, I beg, nay, I urge it to you
 “ more especially as a Duty, to bear it with
 “ a Christian Patience and Submission, not
 “ doubting but you will therein meet with
 “ such strong Supports from Above, as may
 “ secure

" secure you from all the *Evils* and *Harms*
 " that your too great, and passionate Concern
 " might bring upon you :—It is a Justice I
 " owe you, to manifest before this friendly
 " Company, that had I paid the Regard I
 " owed to your earnest Dissuasions, I had
 " both avoided this tragic Period, and the
 " Shame of it : It might probably, however,
 " have been worse ; let that be Part of your
 " Consolation : Make all convenient haste
 " home, and comfort my poor, *aged* Father,
 " whose grey Hairs (I much fear) this Acci-
 " dent will bring with Sorrow to his Grave :
 " Such are the Consequences of Rebellion and
 " Treason in private Life, abstracted from
 " those deplorable ones to the Public :
 " Oh ! might this End of mine be of Effi-
 " cacy, to bring back some of the miserably
 " deluded of our Acquaintance !—I charge
 " you particularly, to write in my Name,
 " and as my dying Request, to my dear
 " Cousin, Mr. ———, the Sentiments of
 " my last Hours ; and as my Example had,
 " I am persuaded, but too much Influence
 " in his Espousal of the desperate and wicked
 " Cause he has acceded to ; so, it is for the
 " Discharge of my Conscience, that I insist
 " on your finding Means to convey to him
 " my solemn Exhortations, to break away
 " from the Society of a Band devoted to De-
 " struction,

"struction, before it is too late, and whilst
 "there is yet room for Mercy, on a timely
 "Application. As for you, my best Angel!"
 (*Here he appeared ready to faint, but recovered
 with snuffing up some Volatile Drops.*) "I have
 "too much to say, my Heart is too full,
 "for any Vent to satisfy it: — Forgive, (but
 "my Love will not suffer me to add, for-
 "get) your unfortunate Husband, who is
 "now paying that Forfeit to the Fortune of
 "Arms, which he owed to public Justice:
 "Take Care of the dear Pledge of our
 "Loves, and train him up in the Paths of
 "Loyalty and Honour; set before his Eyes,
 "with proper Caution, the Example of his
 "unhappy Father; and arm him strongly
 "against those foolish Opinions, and Temp-
 "tations, to which I succumbed: Remark
 "to him, that even after that Glimpse of
 "Success, which has so puffed up my Fellow
 "Rebels, I had Sense and Grace enough to
 "see the Folly of the Course I had been
 "steering; and so far from persevering in it,
 "that if God had been pleased to grant me
 "Life, I would not even have suffered Suc-
 "cess to prevail on me, to remain on the Side
 "of a Party, which my Conscience too well
 "satisfies me, has doomed our Religion,
 "Laws, and Liberties to absolute Destruc-
 "tion; insomuch, even that the few better-
 "intentioned

“intentioned amongst them, would not be
 “able to stop the Torrent ;

Then turning to his Son, a Youth of an
 ingenuous promising Aspect, who stood by
 dissolv'd in Tears, he spoke to him as follows,
 in the most affecting Tone.

“My dear Child, as your tender Years
 “do not assure me of Judgment ripe enough
 “to weigh duly my last Instructions, I re-
 “commend them earnestly for your Me-
 “mory, to treasure up against a more adult
 “Age, when they may be useful to you :
 “Write them in the living Tablets of your
 “Heart : — Reject constantly any Offers,
 “or Temptations, to swerve from the exactest
 “Allegiance, and Loyalty to our only lawful
 “Sovereign, King *George II.* and his De-
 “scendants: Keep in Mind firmly, that a
 “*Popish* Head is incompatible with a *Pro-*
 “*testant* People ; and that the present King
 “has the best Right, by all Laws humane
 “and divine, to the Crown he wears (with
 “so much Dignity.) Let it be your earnest
 “Care to atone for *my* Offences against his
 “Majesty, by *your* Conduct, in full Certainty
 “that you have every thing to hope, and
 “nothing to fear, from the known Le-
 “nity of that Government, I have been
 “vile

“ vile and wicked enough to attack, and
 “ disturb the Peace of : A Step which has
 “ not only brought me to this fatal End, but
 “ sinks me down to the Necessity of asking
 “ Pardon of my own Child, for giving him
 “ a Rebel and a Traytor for a Father :
 “ With what Face too, can I recommend to
 “ you all Observance and Piety to your Mo-
 “ ther, when, Wretch that I am, I have not
 “ only acted expressly against the Commands
 “ of my own Father, but aimed a Dagger at
 “ the Vitals of my Mother-Country ! Oh !
 “ Child, let my Fall be a standing Warning
 “ to you, how you ever give Ear to traitorous
 “ Conspiracies, and Seductions.—The Ways
 “ of Loyalty only are the ways of Peace.
 “ Farewel, my dear Boy, and comfort your
 “ poor Mother under this severe Trial.”

At the End of these Words, he embraced
 them both very tenderly, and, not without
 some Difficulty, and much Persuasion, we got
 these two afflicted Mourners to withdraw and
 leave him, for his greater Good, to his Prayers
 and Meditations. At length, however, Mrs.
Oswald was carried fainting out of the Room,
 with her Son weeping, and hanging upon her.
 —They were no sooner removed, but the
 sick Party, who had been considerably
 weakened by such strong Emotions, and
 Draughts

Draughts upon his low Spirits, as this Interview had produced, applied himself with much Fervour and Devotion to the great Work, and preserved his Senses perfectly, whilst I went through the Duties of my Office, which he partook with, in the most edifying Manner: On my expressing my Hopes, nay, my Assurance, that I did not doubt of his so sincere Repentance being accepted by a God of Mercy, and that all was well between God and his Soul, he readily replied, *I thank God all is well*; and as if that Declaration was to be conclusive, he was but a few Minutes after taken speechless; and, at times, those that stood by him, and myself especially, desired him, if sensible, and if his Peace and Comfort yet remained, that he would lift up his Hands; which he immediately did as high as he could, and decently continued, on the like Summons, to lift up one of them till he expired, which was about one the next Morning, being then in the eight-and-thirtieth Year of his Age. Thus as his Penitence was exemplary, so his End was Peace. Divine Mercy met him more than half-way, and offered him, even in Death, the Comforts and Refreshments which ever attend a true-repenting Sinner. The God he had forsaken (but returned to) did not *for-sake* him in his Extremities: But as he continued

tinued trusting, and seeking him to the very last, so did he uphold him with his Arms, and chear him with his Smiles : And at length, after giving him a Foretaste of the rich Mercy of his Covenant-God, with everlasting Kindness, gathered and received this stray Sheep into his own Embraces. Glory be to his Name for ever.

Now, as it may be expected here, that I should give some Account of the personal History of the Gentleman whose End I have related, I shall briefly set down what I know or have learnt concerning the same.

Mr. *Archibald Oswald*, was born near *Aberdeen*, where his Father yet lives, a noted, worthy Minister, whose Piety and Moderation has recommended him to the Esteem of all that know him, and I reckon it an Unhappiness that I am not amongst the Number. He was laid up with the Gout at the Time of the Action at *Preston-Pans*, inso-much, that he was not able to attend his dying Son, for whom he had always the greatest Tenderness, although much offended at his engaging in this rebellious Conspiracy, contrary to his positive Injunction, and contrary to the Nurture and Principles he had sedulously instilled into him. For, although his
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Circumstances in the World were such, as that he could well afford him the most liberal Education abroad, he had, from extreme paternal Fondness, taken on himself the Task of a private Tutor to his beloved Son; nor till he had made great Progress in his Studies, allowed him to go and finish them at *St. Andrews*, where he was much admired for his Parts and Vivacity.—At the Age of Twenty-two, he was married to the Daughter and Heiress of *James Macduff*, Esq; of *Dumbar-ton*, with whom he had a very good Portion, (in Lands) and they lived very happily and lovingly together, 'till in the Year 1743. a Business not very important, and which too he did not succeed in, drew him over to *Paris*, where unluckily he fell into the Acquaintance of some *Scotch* and *Irish* Officers in the Service of the *French* King; and though one would have naturally imagined, he was of an Age not easily to be shaken, or led away, it was amongst them he imbibed those foolish and exploded Notions of indefeasible Right, and unalienable Monarchy; and such was his Infatuation on these Points, that, under various Colours and Prettexts, he spun out his Stay in that Country, even after War was declared, until he at length engaged in the mad, and desperate Undertaking, of accompanying the young *Chevalier*, with no better

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Encouragement than a simple Ensign's Commission ; and being a strict *Protestant*, he had no room to brag of any Confidence or Favour from that Personage, though greatly esteemed and countenanced by the D. of P. as indeed he was a Gentleman of great Gifts and Endowments, both natural and acquired, (the more's the Skaith, considering this fatal Perversion of them.) He was a great Proficient in most Branches of polite Literature, and had the Scriptures almost by Heart, as appeared by his ready and apt Quotations of Passages during his last Illness: In short, if he *deserved* (as doubtless he did) his Fate, great and woeful was the Pity that he should *deserve* it ; and admirable is the Mercy of Providence, that gave him a Respite sufficient for Repentance and Atonement: Oh ! may all, to whom the Knowledge of this shall come, benefit by the Example !

P. S. I did design the above Narrative to be printed in *Edinburgh*, but the Liberty of the Press there being totally suppressed, and under the Sway of lawless Rebels, I take this Method of Publication by sending it to my Friend, Mr. ——— in *London*, with proper Instructions about the Edition ; which I hope in God may not be unserviceable at the present critical Juncture.

In

In the same Pacquet goes inclosed a Copy of a Letter wrote by me, at Mrs. *Oswald's* Request, and under her Name, to * Mr. — a particular Friend of Mr. *Oswald's*, now amongst the Rebels, which I forwarded to him by a special Hand; the Result of which I shall communicate as soon as I receive an Answer: In the mean time, my Prayers and Wishes are sent up to Heaven for a speedy End to this unnatural and bloody Rebellion.

Copy of the LETTER.

SIR,
THough the wretched and deplorable Condition I am in from the Decease of my dear Husband, who at this Instant lies unburied under the same Roof with me, hardly leaves me Spirits to hold a Pen; yet such is the sacred Regard I pay to his urgent Instructions and Commands in his last Minutes, that, with the Advice and Assistance of Mr. *John Drummond*, of *Belzie-Hills*, I sit down to write you these Presents, on a Subject that does not safely admit a Moment's Delay.

§ Poor Mr. *Oswald*, but a few Instants ago,

* See Page 19.

' go, died at Mr. *Douglas's* of *Preslon-Pans*,
 ' of the Wounds he received at the late En-
 ' gagement with the King's Forces, after lan-
 ' guishing six Days in great Pain both of
 ' Body and Mind; but in the midst of
 ' the severest Trials, next to his Contrition
 ' and Penitence for having engaged on a
 ' Side so opposite to his every religious and
 ' civil Duty, the Friendship he had for you
 ' was one of his principal Concerns, and the
 ' Remorse for having embarked you in so ru-
 ' inous a Cause, possessed his last Thoughts
 ' with the most tender, and sollicitous Anxi-
 ' ety for your Welfare.— He thought
 ' himself accountable before God and Man,
 ' for all the ill Consequences which threaten
 ' you, for your Adherence to a desperate Par-
 ' ty, into which his fatal Example and Advice
 ' had too much misguided you; and had no
 ' Comfort, but the Hopes, that as they had
 ' had but too much Influence to seduce you
 ' to *It*, they might likewise, seconded by the
 ' most solemn Adjuration in the Hour of
 ' Death, reclaim you to *Good*; and, before
 ' it was yet too late, recall you to the Paths,
 ' of Safety and Innocence, from which his
 ' own Deviation had caused you to wander:
 ' God send, then, that my dear Husband's
 ' Interest with you may not be lessened,
 ' when it is thus visibly exerted for *yours*;
 ' and

and that the late empty Flash of Success
 may not have dazzled you so far, as to
 take it for an Assurance of the like in fu-
 ture : It is not barely not probable, but
 directly impossible, that this rash, foolish
 Undertaking, should end otherwise but in
 the Ruin of the Abettors and Supporters of
 it : Consider but where it begins ; at the
 very Fag-End of the Nation, amongst raw,
 untutored, ignorant Mountaineers, with-
 out any Principles, but those of a Sort of
 Obedience to a few Chieftains of the Clans,
 who lead them like Sheep to certain Slaugh-
 ter, for their own mistaken Ends ; and, as
 you plainly must see, are undisciplinable,
 and incapable of any regular Order, whilst
 Plunder is their immediate Object, and Mo-
 tive of Action : It is no Wonder that such
 Wretches, hardly civilized beyond a State
 of Nature, should readily embrace the first
 Commotion or Signal of Insurrection, in
 Hopes of the Rapine and Pillage which
 they consider are their Harvest ; and for
 which they would leave their bleak deso-
 late Mountains, on *any* Cause or Pretext :
 Consider next the Leaders in the Camp, or
 Councils of this silly young Man, who is
 more to be pitied than blamed for his Ac-
 ceptance of his Cat's-Paw Commission.—
 Men, either in a State of Outlawry, and
 having

having no Fortunes to mar, are desperately engaged in a Tryal to mend them, at the Expence of the Laws, Lives, Liberties, and Properties of their Fellow-Subjects, or such, who to the Crime of Rebellion, have added such a monstrous Complication of Perjury and Ingratitude, as must render them inwardly the Scorn and Detestation of those whose Tools and Instruments they are, worthy indeed of the Cause they are setting their Shoulders to! A Cause, which evidently aims at enslaving a free People, unsettling their sole Security and Tenure by which they hold every thing valuable, or worth living for, and introducing a foreign Yoke, and the most ignominious Condition of Slavery to one who must himself be a Slave to the House of *Bourbon*: And can you, Sir, with the Lights of common Sense, imagine otherwise, but that this frantic Attempt will unite and cement the Supports of the *British* Crown, legally fixed on the Head of the present Wearer, and his Line? No, Sir, the Consequences of this Rebellion (which I should call ridiculous, but that Decency forbids me, especially when so precious a Victim lies bleeding almost under my Eyes) lie level to the meanest Apprehension: It will only draw together, and unite under one common

' common Standard of *Liberty*, Parties even
 ' the most distant in other Points: The
 ' Support of that great and favourite Ob-
 ' ject, must and will become the Center of
 ' Union for all that love their Country; and
 ' none will be more zealous Promoters and
 ' Assertors of the Cause of Loyalty (oh!
 ' remember that Word *LOYALTY*, and its
 ' Meaning and Derivation) than such as
 ' have appeared in Opposition to the Mea-
 ' sures of the Court: This very *Æra* will
 ' be too favourable a one for them not to
 ' seize, to purge themselves to the World of
 ' the least Tincture or Suspicion of *Jacobi-*
 ' *tism*, which their Adversaries charged them
 ' with, and they as constantly, and, I be-
 ' lieve, justly disavowed.

' You will find, Sir, that even the sensi-
 ' ble amongst the *Papists*, infatuated as they
 ' are with the silliest as well as wickedest
 ' Mode of Worship that ever debauched, dis-
 ' graced, and degraded Humanity, will hardly
 ' be Fools enough to wish such a Change in
 ' the Civil Government, as without one whit
 ' more Security to their Properties, would
 ' subject them to all the Terrors of that
 ' Ecclesiastical Tyranny, which they are by
 ' the Constitution of our Country happily
 ' freed from, without any Violence to any
 ' Consciences, but such as are blindly Priest-
 '

ric Iden

ridden, and are so grossly immersed in their
 Superstition, as to hug a State of temporal
 and spiritual Slavery, and prefer it to that
 of Liberty, and a noble Independance :
 And will you, Sir, who have been bred
 in Principles so strictly, and diametrically
 opposite to those of the Party you are with
 at present, countenance and forward a Sys-
 tem of Revolution, which even a thinking
Papist could not with Success to ? Oh, Sir,
 take Warning in Time, by the Fate of my
 unfortunate Spouse, and your good Friend :
 Make it not a Point of *false*, false Honour,
 to stand by the Enemies of your Country,
 and lawless Rebels. Constancy in Evil is
 no better than the Virtue of a Fool. —

I long to hear of your nobly and wisely
 quitting the Ways of Perdition that you
 are evidently in ; and if my Request and
 Intreaties, joined to those of your Friend's,
 carry any additional Weight, you have
 them from the Bottom of my mournful
 Heart : God inspire you for the best !

I am, Sir,

Your Afflicted,

and Faithful Servant,

Wm. S. Your God-Son

K. Oswald.

presents his Duty

to you.

The E N D.

